

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification of the present application as set forth below. Changes to the specification are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for corrections).

No new matter has been introduced.

Replace paragraph [0005] on page 2 with the following:

[0005] Various example aspects of present embodiments are described herein in conjunction with the following figures, wherein:

Figures 1A and 1B illustrate ~~an example scenario~~ a diagram of an exemplary environment in which ~~various example aspects of the present embodiments~~ a wire clamp may be employed;

Figures 2A and 2B illustrates a diagram of ~~an example aspect of various embodiments of~~ a wire clamp;

Figure 2B illustrates a diagram of an example of the wire clamp in an engaged position;

Figures 3A, ~~3B and 3C are~~ is an side and end views of ~~various~~ an example exemplary embodiment aspects of the present embodiments a clamp remover;

Figure 3B is a side view of an exemplary embodiment of a clamp remover;

Figure 3C is an end view of an exemplary embodiment of a clamp remover;

Figures 4 and ~~5~~ illustrates a diagram of various an example aspects of the present embodiments of a clamp remover engaging a wire clam;

Figure 5 illustrates a diagram of a wire clamp remover including an actuating member.

Replace paragraphs starting with paragraph [0013] on page 5 to paragraph [0038] on page 14 with the following:

[0013] Figures 1A and 1B depict an example scenario involving a wire 102 spanning between a columnar member 106 and a fixed structure 104 located on the premises of a service subscriber. ~~According to this embodiment~~ These figures show at least one wire clamp 100 is employed to secure the wire 102 to a hook 110 that is mounted to the columnar member 106 and the outside of the fixed structure 104. ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The hook 110 is located at a point just short of the position in which the wire 102 enters the fixed structure 104 and/or enters a network interface 108 mounted to the fixed structure 104 and/or the columnar member 106.

[0014] The columnar member 106 may, ~~according to one embodiment,~~ be a pole and/or a tree trunk, and the fixed structure 104 may be a subscriber's commercial building, industrial site and/or residence. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the network interface 108 may be any point of interconnection between a communication facility, such as, for example, a telephone company, and terminal equipment, protective apparatuses and/or wiring located on the columnar member 106 and/or within the fixed structure 104.

[0015] Figure 2A illustrates an exploded view of a wire clamp 100 that may, ~~according to one embodiment,~~ comprise a shell 200, a wedge 202 and/or a shim 204 that function in concert to secure the wire 102 to the columnar member 106 and/or the fixed structure 104. In addition, wire clamps 100 may come in varying sizes to accommodate the various widths and thickness of wires 102.

[0016] ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The shell 200 is formed as an elongated, open-ended member, having side walls 211 and 212 interconnected by a bottom 213 essentially defining a

U-shaped cross section. The bottom 213 maybe formed with a stepped or grooved surface 214 extending the length of the bottom 213. This stepped or grooved surface 214 forms a series of transverse teeth that are shaped to engage the wire 102. The walls 211 and 212 are tapered from a wide end 215 to a narrow end 216. The upper edges of the walls 211 and 212 are bent toward one another to form a pair of rails 218 and 219 with downwardly open channels along the upper edge of the walls 211 and 212. The rails 218 and 219 are parallel to one another and are formed, shaped and sized to receive corresponding walls 232 and 233 of the wedge 202, hereafter described.

[0017] ~~According to one embodiment, the~~ The wedge 202 is formed with an elongated base 231 with opposite upwardly extending side walls 232 and 233 at its longitudinally edges that taper from one end 234 to a wider other end 235. The side walls 232 and 233 are spaced apart and shaped to slide in the rails 218 and 219 of the shell 200. The elongated base 231 is provided with a series of spaced crimps 237 that are shaped and sized to receive the engaging bail 203 of the wedge 202. The engaging bail 203 may be configured to interface with the hook 110 that may be mounted to the columnar member 106 and/or the fixed structure 104.

[0018] ~~According to one embodiment, the~~ The shim 204 extends longitudinally ~~of~~ off the wedge 202 and is approximately the same width as the wedge 202. In the illustrated embodiment (shown in Figure 2B), the forward portion 250 of the shim ~~50~~ 204 extends forwardly beyond the one end 234 of the wedge 202. The rear portion 251 of the shim 204 is formed with a laterally extending tab having a width greater than the width of the shell 200 to limit inward movement of the wedge 202 and the shim 204 into the shell 200. The shim 204 is also provided with a series of punchholes 253 for frictionally engaging a length of the wire 102 positioned between the shim 204 and the bottom of the shell 200. ~~According to one example~~

~~aspect, the~~ The walls of the punchholes 253 project downwardly to form projecting and engaging elements in the lower surface 257 of the shim 204.

[0019] Figure 2B illustrates the wire 102, the shell 200, the wedge 202 and the shim 204 in an engaged position. ~~According to this embodiment, the~~ The wedge 202 is slid longitudinally into the shell 200, thus securing the wire 102 between the shim 204 and the bottom of the shell 200. ~~In one embodiment, a~~ A technician slides the wedge 202 longitudinally into the shell 200. ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The bail 203 of the wedge 202 is coupled to the hook 110, thereby causing the weight of the wire 102 to act as a force that longitudinally engages the wedge 202 with the shell 200.

[0020] Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, ~~the illustrated embodiments which~~ depict a clamp remover 399 (shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C) and the clamp remover 399 engaging a wire clamp 100 (shown in Figure 4). In addition, the clamp remover 399 may come in varying sizes to accommodate the various size wire clamps 100.

[0021] Figures 3A, ~~3B and 3C~~ are is side and an end views of various example an exemplary embodiments of a wire clamp remover 399. Figure 3B is a side view of an exemplary embodiment of a clamp remover 399. Figure 3C is an end view of an exemplary embodiment of a clamp remover 399. The wire clamp remover 399 may be formed from a variety of suitable materials that can withstand various outdoor environmental conditions and the stress and/or strain caused by varying multi-directional load forces. As used herein, "environmental conditions" include, but are not limited to, a wide range of ambient temperatures, humidity, moisture, rain, sleet, snow, ice, and airborne or windblown sand, dust and dirt prevalent in outdoor environments.

[0022] The wire clamp remover 399 may be formed from any suitable engineering material with the above-mentioned environmentally-resistant and/or strength properties such as, for example, metal, alloy, plastic, or ceramic used in the fabrication of machinery, machinery components, structural shapes, tools, instruments, and other items. Their hardness, strength, machinability, dimensional stability, nonflamunability, and resistance to corrosion, acids, solvents, and heat may characterize the properties of such suitable engineering materials. Examples of such suitable engineering materials include, but are not limited to, metals and alloys such as aluminum, beryllium, brass, bronze, cast iron, copper, lead, magnesium, steel, tantalum, zinc, zirconium, and various other alloys; ceramics such as glass and porcelain; and plastics such as ABS resin, acetal resin, acrylic resin, fluorocarbon polymer, nylon, phenolformaldehyde resin, polybutylene terephthalate, polycarbonate, polyethylene, polyphenylene oxide, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, reinforced plastics (FRP), polymers, rubber and ureaformaldehyde resin. The wire clamp remover 399 is formed from any of the engineering materials recited above, and/or any combinations thereof, with appropriate coatings adequate to withstand outdoor environmental conditions. ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 is formed of aluminum, stainless steel or G90 galvanized steel having a durable finish coating, such as a polyurethane powder coating.

[0023] ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 includes a first engaging member 300 configured to engage the wire clamp 100. ~~According to this embodiment, the~~ The first engaging member 300 is formed as an elongated, open-ended member, having side walls 302 and 304 interconnected by a base 306 essentially defining a U-shaped cross section. The upper portions of the walls 302 and 304 are shaped to engage and apply a first force f_1 against the shell 200 of the wire clamp 100 as shown in Figure 4.

[0024] ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 includes a second engaging member 400 configured to engage the wire clamp 100. ~~According to this embodiment, the~~ The second engaging member 400 is formed as an elongated, open-ended member, having side walls 402 and 404 interconnected by a base 406 essentially defining a U-shaped cross section. The upper portions of the walls 402 and 404 are shaped to engage and apply a second force $f2$ against the wedge 202 of the wire clamp 100 as shown in Figure 4. ~~According to various example aspects, the~~ The first force $f1$ and the second force $f2$ may be in opposition to one another.

[0025] ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 also includes a first interface member 308 coupled to the base 306 of the first engaging member 300. According to this embodiment, the first interface member 308 is integrated into the design of the first engaging member 300. In other embodiments, the first interface member 308 is a separate and distinct element that is separately mounted to the first engaging member 300 by fastening means such as, for example, rivets, bolts, screws, various crimping methodologies and/or various welding methodologies. In various aspects of the present embodiments, the first interface member 308 is formed into a rectangular member, a columnar post and/or any other shape suitable for bearing loads associated with varying multi-directional forces.

[0026] ~~According to one embodiment, the~~ The first interface member 308 is coupled to an actuating member 500 that is capable of providing a third force $f2'$ (discussed herein below in conjunction with Figure 5). As shown in Figure 4, the first interface member 308 transfers the third force $f2'$ to the first engaging member 300 and thus cause the upper

portions of walls 302 and 304 to apply the first force $f1$ against the shell 200 of the wire clamp 100.

[0027] ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 also includes a second interface member 408 coupled to the base 406 of the second engaging member 400. According to this embodiment, the second interface member 408 is integrated into the design of the second engaging member 400. In other embodiments, the second interface member 408 is a separate and distinct element that is separately mounted to the second engaging member 400 by fastening means such as, for example, rivets, bolts, screws, various crimping methodologies and/or various welding methodologies. Like the first interface member 308, the second interface member 408 is formed into a rectangular member, a columnar post and/or any other shape suitable for bearing loads associated with varying multi-directional forces.

[0028] ~~According to one embodiment, the~~ The second interface member 408 is coupled to an actuating member 500 that is capable of providing a fourth force $f2'$ (discussed hereinbelow in conjunction with Figure 5). As shown in Figure 4, the second interface member 408 transfers the fourth force $f2'$ to the second engaging member 400 and thus cause the upper portions of walls 402 and 404 to apply the second force $f2$ against the wedge 202 of the wire clamp 100.

[0029] ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 also includes a third interface member 330 that couples the first engaging member 300 to the second engaging member 400. According to this embodiment, the third interface member 330 is integrated into the design of the first engaging member 300 and/or the second engaging member 400. In other embodiments, the third interface member 330 is a separate and distinct element that is separately mounted to the first engaging member 300 and/or the second engaging member

400 by fastening means such as, for example, rivets, bolts, screws, various crimping methodologies and/or various welding methodologies.

[0030] In various aspects of the present embodiments, the third interface member 330 is formed into rails with upwardly open channels. These rails are parallel to one another and maybe formed, shaped and sized to receive corresponding walls of the first engagement member 300 and/or the second engagement member 400 such that the first engagement member 300 and/or the second engagement member 400 bidirectionally slide along the third interface member 330 in ~~directions shown by arrows 322 and 324.~~

[0031] ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 also includes a reset member 320. In various example aspects of this embodiment, the reset member 320 is coupled to the first engaging member 300 and/or the second engaging member 400, or the reset member 320 may, for example, be coupled to the first interface member 308 and/or the second interface member 408.

[0032] ~~According to other embodiments, the~~ The reset member 320 comprises a biased, a hydraulic and/or a pneumatic member. ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The biased element may includes but is not limited to an air, coil, helical, leaf and/or torsional spring. The potential energy of the biased, hydraulic and/or pneumatic member is at a maximum when an applied force compresses the reset member 320 to its shortest length without causing permanent deformation, thus causing the reset member 320 to be in a "charged" condition. The reset member 320 may be subject to such a compressive force when the first engaging member 300, the first interface member 308, the second engaging member 400 and/or the second interface member 409 are actuated by forces $f1$, $f1'$, $f2$ and $f2'$ respectively. Once charged, the reset member 320 is released and thus exerts a force $f3$ on the first engaging

member 300 and/or the first interface member 308 and exert a force f_4 on the second engaging member 400 and/or the second interface member 409, thereby disengaging the first engaging member 300 and/or the second engaging member 400 from the wire clamp 100.

[0033] ~~In one embodiment, the~~ The wire clamp remover 399 also includes a first support member 340 that is coupled to the first engaging member 300 and the first interface member 308 and a second support member 342 that is coupled to the second engaging member 400 and the second interface member 408. The first support member 340 and the second support member 342 are formed from a variety of suitable materials that can withstand various outdoor environmental conditions as well as the stress and/or strain caused by varying multi-directional load forces.

[0034] According to ~~one~~ the exemplary embodiment, support member 340 and the second support member 342 are formed from a natural, synthetic, and/or modified high polymer with elastic properties (e.g., rubber) in order to relieve some of the stress and strain that the first interface member 308 and second interface member 408 may bear when forces f_1' , f_2' , f_3 , and f_4 are applied.

[0035] Referring now to Figure 5, the wire clamp remover 399 includes an actuating member 500 configured to provide the third force f_1' and the fourth force f_2' , which may be in opposition to one another. In addition, the actuating member 500 includes a first cavity member 502 that is configured to receive the first interface member 308 and a second cavity member 504 that is configured to receive the second interface member 408. ~~According to this embodiment, the~~ The first cavity member 502 and the second cavity member 504 transfer and/or generate the third force f_1' and the fourth force f_2' respectively. In addition, the third

force $f1'$ may be applied to the first interface member 308 and the fourth force $f2'$ maybe applied to the second interface member 408.

[0036] ~~In another embodiment, the~~ The actuating member 500 comprises the reset member 320, wherein the reset member 320 is configured to disengage the first engaging member 300 and the second engaging member 400 from the clamp 100. In addition, the actuating member 500, ~~according to another embodiment,~~ includes a force generating member and/or a force transferring member (shown as reference numeral 510). Figure 5 shows the force generating member and/or the force transferring member 510 is coupled to the first cavity 502 and to the second cavity 504. The force generating member 510 and/or the force transferring member 510 may be locally and/or remotely controlled and may comprise at least one mechanical member, electromechanical member, biased member, hydraulic member and/or pneumatic member. In addition, the force generating member 510 is capable of generating the third force $f1'$ and the fourth force $f2'$, and the force transferring member 510 is capable of transferring the third force $f1'$ to the first interface member 308 and the fourth force $f2'$ to the second interface member 408. For example, the force transferring member 510 may transfer forces $f1'$ and $f2'$ that are generated by a technician squeezing the first cavity member 502 against the second cavity member 504. In another embodiment, the biased element includes an air, coil, helical, leaf and/or torsional spring.

[0037] ~~In yet another embodiment, the~~ The actuating member 500 also comprises at least one linking member 506 that is coupled to the first cavity member 502 and the second cavity member 504. According to this exemplary embodiment, the linking member 506 is integrated into the design of the first cavity member 502 and/or the second cavity member 504. In other embodiments, the linking member 504 506 is a separate and distinct element that

is separately mounted to the first cavity member 502 and/or the second cavity member 504 by fastening means such as, for example, rivets, bolts, screws, various crimping methodologies and/or various welding methodologies.

[0038] ~~In various aspects of the present embodiments, the~~ The linking member 506 is formed into rails with upwardly open channels. These rails are parallel to one another and are formed, shaped and sized to receive corresponding walls of the first cavity member 502 and/or the second cavity member 504 such that the first cavity member 502 and/or the second cavity member 504 bi-directionally slide along the linking member in directions shown by arrow 508.